(b) if so, the details of the private banks under watch for nationalization/ merger?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present, there is no such proposal with the Government.

Procedure for appointment of chiefs of Public Sector Banks

1213. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to streamline the procedure for the appointment of the heads of public sector banks to ensure a longer tenure for them so as to improve efficiency and stability in their working; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when a final decision in the matter is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Report of the sub-committee constituted by the Appointments Board to prepare Policy Guidelines to examine all aspects of the issue and propose a long term policy for deeper selection of meritorious candidate who can be placed in key position of major Banks for a sufficiently long period has been endorsed by the appointments Board and sub-committee has been requested to prepare the road map and modalities for its operationalisation in consultation with CMD's of select Banks.

Off loading of equity in oil companies

1214. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to off load their equity in Government oil companies;

(b) if so, the extent thereof in each of the companies;

(c) to what extent small investors would be offered shares in each company; and